

for whom I have the most enormous respect and affection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I renew my request for unanimous consent.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] reserves the right to object.

Mr. DINGELL. Simply to continue to have this very helpful colloquy with my good friend from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. It might be helpful to the gentleman from Michigan, but it is not to me.

Mr. DINGELL. Well, I apologize because it is my intent to be helpful in every particular to my good friend from Florida.

I am trying to understand. This is a bill that was reported out of the committee?

Mr. BILIRAKIS. The bill was marked up, I believe last week, out of committee.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, if I could continue on my reservation of objection, is this the bill that was the amendment, that is exactly the same as the amendment? This is a different bill? Oh.

Well, I will not object, and I gather, then, Mr. Speaker, that we are proceeding under the suspension rules and I will be immensely cooperative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. And the Chair thanks the gentleman. The gentleman from Michigan withdraws his reservation of objection.

Without objection, the Clerk will report the title of the bill.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 3632 is as follows:

H.R. 3632

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL RESIDENT REVIEW FOR MENTALLY ILL AND MENTALLY RETARDED NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1919(e)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r(e)(7)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking "ANNUAL" in the heading, and

(B) by striking clause (iii); and

(2) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking "ANNUAL" in the heading.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW IN CASE OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CONDITION OF MENTALLY ILL OR MENTALLY RETARDED NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS.**

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR NOTIFICATION OF STATE AUTHORITY.—Section 1919(b)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r(b)(3)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "In addition, a nursing facility shall notify the State mental health authority or State mental retardation or developmental disability authority, as applicable, promptly after a significant change in the physical or mental condition of a resi-

dent who is mentally ill or mentally retarded."

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW.—Section 1919(e)(7)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r(e)(7)(B)), as amended by section 1(a)(1), is amended by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

"(iii) REVIEW REQUIRED UPON CHANGE IN RESIDENT'S CONDITION.—A review and determination under clause (i) or (ii) must be conducted promptly after a nursing facility has notified the State mental health authority or State mental retardation or developmental disability authority, as applicable, under subsection (b)(3)(E) with respect to a mentally ill or mentally retarded resident, that there has been a significant change in the resident's physical or mental condition."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to changes in physical or mental condition occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3632 has received strong bipartisan support and will correct a problem with the current implementation of the nursing home quality assurance standards. Let me say that Congressman EHRlich, the sponsor of the bill, deserves special recognition for his efforts in moving this bill.

One of the requirements of the act was annual resident assessment for all Medicaid nursing home residents. The underlying statute also has as a requirement that for each resident of a nursing facility who is mentally ill or mentally retarded, an additional evaluation be completed. These additional reviews have proved to be costly and unnecessary. The Commerce Committee, the States, and the administration have come to the conclusion that this additional annual review is unnecessary.

This bill repeals this requirement for an additional assessment for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. It would require, as an alternative, that additional assessments only occur when there is a significant change in the resident's physical or mental condition.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill. I want to express my respect and affection for my good friend from Florida. We are not always able to keep track of the way these matters move around here, and so I always out of great affection, some respect of the very high character and desire to work with my Republican col-

leagues, I always ask questions to try to find out what it is we are doing here during these closing days.

I would observe parenthetically that we just checked with the staff of the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN], and they have not heard a word about this bill. So I hope the gentleman from Florida will excuse my inability to respond as speedily and as sharply and crisply as I might have liked to have done.

In any event, the bill is a good bill and we support this excellent legislation.

□ 1415

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRlich], the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, just briefly, I want to thank everyone involved with this bill, particularly the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN], and I would also point out that this is a Corrections Day bill. As you know, the Speaker came up with the Corrections Day process in order to facilitate the elimination of regulations that simply do not make sense and that cost a lot of money. That is the very purpose of the corrections day process.

I also congratulate the Speaker for implementing this process, and I believe this bill is probably the best example I can think of as to the way the Corrections Day process was supposed to work and actually does work. It has been a great honor for me to be a part of the process.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we do not have any further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I too have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3632.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3632.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House